

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:JBOARDMAN:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR HURWITZ

EA/P - MR SMITH (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 293447

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT:PRESS GUIDANCE: REQUEST OF KCIA OFFICAL TO REMAIN
IN THE U.S.

REF: STATE 292130

1. IN VIEW CONSIDERABLE AND ACCURATE DETAIL CONTAINED
IN DECEMBER 1 PRESS COVERAGE OF KIM SANG-KUN'S REQUEST
TO REMAIN IN THE U.S., THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE WAS PRE-
PARED, GOING BEYOND NO COMMENT AP,ROACH OUTLINED REFTEL.

QUOTE:

QUESTION: CAN THE DEPARTMENT CONFIRM THE REPORTS THAT A
SENIOR KCIA OFFICIAL FROM THEIR EMBASSY HERE IS SEEKING
ASYLUM IN THE US?

ANSWER: A KOREAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, COUNSELOR KIM SANG
KEUN, IS SEEKING AN ADJUSTMENT IN HIS STATUS SO THAT HE
MAY BE ABLE TO REMAIN IN THE U.S.

QUESTION: IS HE PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT THE INVESTI-
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GATION OF KCIA ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S.?

ANSWER: IN VIEW OF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION INTO THIS

SUBJECT I HAVE NO FURTHER COMMENT.

UNQUOTE.

2. DURING DECEMBER 1 NOON BRIEFING DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
READ FROM THE ABOVE GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS
ABOUT REPORTS THAT A SENIOR KCIA OFFICIAL IS SEEKING
ASYLUM IN THE U.S. BUT REFERRED SUB-

SEQUENT QUESTIONS TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. THE
SPOKESMAN REFUSED TO MAKE ANY GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT
WHEN ASKED HOW THE U.S. REGARDS REQUESTS FOR ASYLUM
MADE BY DIPLOMATS SERVING HERE. HE DID NOT ELABORATE
BEYOND GUIDANCE WHEN ASKED ABOUT CHARACTER OF KIM'S
JOB IN THE U.S. AND ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE PHRASE
THAT KIM IS QUOTE SEEKING AN ADJUSTMENT IN HIS STATUS
UNQUOTE.

ROBINSON

NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. STEINER.

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